



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,837	02/17/2004	Yaniv Feinberg	60001.0390US01/MS305254.1	9172

27488 7590 03/13/2009
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

JACKSON, JAKIEDA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2626

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

03/13/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/779,837	Applicant(s) FEINBERG ET AL.	
	Examiner JAKIEDA R. JACKSON	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the Office Action mailed September 23, 2008, applicant submitted an amendment filed on December 16, 2008, in which the applicant amended and requested reconsideration.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant argues that the Banerjee does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) because it is not an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent. As discussed above, the June 27, 2006 U.S. filing date of Banerjee is after the filing date of the instant application. Banerjee further fails to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) because it was not known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent. Banerjee was described in a printed PCT publication on July 28, 2005 which is after the filing date of the instant application. It is respectfully submitted that the remaining sections of 35 U.S.C. § 102 under which Banerjee would potentially qualify as prior art are also inapplicable based on the current record. Applicant's arguments are persuasive, but are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 8-9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babst et al. (USPN 7,194,404), hereinafter referenced as Babst in view of Robertson et al. (PGPUB 2006/0277213), hereinafter referenced as Robertson.

Regarding **claim 1**, Babst discloses a method of operating a jump bar of a contact manager, comprising the steps of:

assigning a character code to a button of the jump bar (character code), wherein the character code is uniquely associated with an alphanumeric character of a character set having a single character code (input character; column 9, lines 16-57) uniquely associated with each alphanumeric character of a plurality of alphanumeric characters from a plurality of languages (languages; column 12, lines 36-63); and

displaying the retrieved contact information in a window of the contact manager (display; column 6, line 30 - column 7, line 30), but does not specifically teach retrieving contact information from a contacts information database by comparing the assigned character code and the first alphanumeric character of the last names of contacts having associated contact information previously stored in the contacts information database.

Robertson discloses a method of retrieving contact information from a contacts information database (address book interface) by comparing the assigned character code (letter) and the first alphanumeric character of the last names of contacts (last name) having associated contact information previously stored in the contacts information database (paragraphs 0077-0083 with figure 10), to easily locate and share personal information with other users.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Babst's method as described above, to conduct a search of contacts of the respective user and the search may be limited in scope to users that satisfy one or more particular search criteria, such as users that reside in a particular region or are affiliated with a particular group (paragraph 0012), as taught by Robertson.

Regarding **claim 2**, Babst discloses a method wherein the method further comprises a step of selecting the character code assigned to the button of the jump bar based at least in part upon the usage frequency (frequently used) of the associated alphanumeric character in the respective language thereof (column 9, lines 36-57).

Regarding **claim 3**, Babst discloses a method wherein the method further comprises a step of determining respective weights (high and low) for the alphanumeric characters of the plurality of alphanumeric characters (column 9, lines 36-57).

Regarding **claim 5**, Babst discloses a method wherein the assigned character code is a first character code and the button is a first button of the jump bar, wherein the first character code is associated with a first language, and wherein the method further

Art Unit: 2626

comprises a step of assigning a second character code associated with a second language to a second button of the jump bar (figure 1).

Regarding **claim 6**, Babst discloses a method wherein the assigned character code is a first character code associated with a first language (column 9, lines 36-57), and wherein the method further comprises a step of assigning a second character code associated with a second language to the button of the jump bar (languages; column 15, lines 51-58).

Regarding **claim 8**, Babst discloses a method of assigning character codes, but does not specifically teach wherein the character code is a first character code, and wherein the method further comprises a step of assigning a second character code to the button of the jump bar in response to re-sizing of the window of the contact manager by a user.

Robertson discloses a method wherein the character code is a first character code, and wherein the method further comprises a step of assigning a second character code to the button of the jump bar in response to re-sizing of the window of the contact manager by a user (figure 10), to easily locate and share personal information with other users.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Babst's method as described above, to conduct a search of contacts of the respective user and the search may be limited in scope to users that satisfy one or more particular search criteria, such as users that reside in a particular region or are affiliated with a particular group (paragraph 0012), as taught by Robertson.

Art Unit: 2626

Regarding **claim 9**, Babst discloses a method wherein the first character code has a first numeric value, wherein the second character code has a second numeric value, and wherein the second numeric value is numerically greater than the first numeric value (figure 5).

5. **Claim 4** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babst in view of Robertson and in further view of James et al. (PGPUB 2005/0198023), hereinafter referenced as James.

Regarding **claim 4**, Babst in view of Robertson discloses a method of data entry for Indic languages, but does not specifically teach wherein the step of displaying the retrieved contact information includes displaying retrieved contact information in groups corresponding to the languages of the retrieved contact information.

James discloses a method wherein the step of displaying the retrieved contact information (address book) includes displaying retrieved contact information in groups corresponding to the languages of the retrieved contact information (paragraphs 0008-0009 and 0029-0033), to allow a user to choose the intended item if more than one interpretation is possible.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Babst in view of Robertson's method as described above, to simultaneously use two or more languages in a single message or entry field (paragraph 0008), as taught by James.

Art Unit: 2626

6. **Claims 10-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babst in view of Robertson and in further view of Flazsa et al. (PGPUB 2003/0233340), hereinafter referenced as Flazsa.

Regarding **claim 10**, Babst discloses system, comprising:

wherein each button is associated uniquely with a character code corresponding to an alphanumeric character of a character set having a single character code uniquely associated with each alphanumeric character of a plurality of languages (figure 1); and a computer software routine (software) including a plurality of executable instructions (column 21, lines 31-48), said computer software routine being operable to uniquely associate buttons of said plurality of buttons with character codes corresponding to alphanumeric characters of said character set (figure 1), but does not specifically teach a plurality of buttons displayable in a graphical user interface window of a contact manager and a button data table including a character code and associated weight for each of a plurality of alphanumeric characters that are assignable to the buttons of the plurality of buttons.

Robertson discloses a system comprising a plurality of buttons (buttons) displayable in a graphical user interface window of a contact manager (figure 10 with paragraphs 0077-0082), to easily locate and share personal information with other users.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Babst's method as described above, to conduct a search of contacts of the respective

Art Unit: 2626

user and the search may be limited in scope to users that satisfy one or more particular search criteria, such as users that reside in a particular region or are affiliated with a particular group (paragraph 0012), as taught by Robertson.

Babst in view of Robertson discloses a contact manager system, but does not specifically disclose a character code and associated weight for each of a plurality of alphanumeric characters.

Flasza discloses a system wherein a character code (character code) and associated weight (weight) for each of a plurality of alphanumeric characters (figure 2 with paragraphs 0019-0022), for sorting data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Babst in view of Robertson's system as described above, to allow all character strings to be distinguished from one another and organized in a desirable sequence (paragraph 0007), as taught by Flasza.

Regarding **claim 11**, it is interpreted and rejected for similar reasons as set forth in claim 10. In addition, Robertson discloses a system wherein said computer software routine is further operable to update said graphical user interface window of said contact manager with contact information (figure 10).

Regarding **claim 12**, Babst discloses a system wherein said weight for each of said plurality of alphanumeric characters is based at least in part on the usage frequency (frequently used words) of each said alphanumeric character within the language thereof (column 9, lines 36-57).

Regarding **claim 13**, Babst discloses a system wherein said computer software routine is operable to uniquely associate a character code of a first alphanumeric character of a first language with a first button of said plurality of buttons and to uniquely associate a character code of a second alphanumeric character of a second language with a second button of said plurality of buttons (figure 1).

Regarding **claim 14**, Babst discloses a system wherein said computer software routine is operable to uniquely associate a character code (code; column 9, lines 36-57) of a first alphanumeric character of a first language with a button of said plurality of buttons (figure 1) and to uniquely associate a character code of a second alphanumeric character of a second language with said button of said plurality of buttons (column 9, lines 36-57).

7. **Claims 16 and 18-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flaszka in view of Robertson and in further view of Babst.

Regarding **claim 16**, Flaszka discloses a method of operating a jump bar of a contact manager, comprising the steps of:

associating a weight (weight) with each character code (character code) of a plurality of character codes corresponding to respective alphanumeric characters of a language, wherein each character code of the plurality of character codes uniquely (unique number) corresponds in a one-to-one relationship to an alphanumeric character of a character set representing a plurality of alphanumeric characters of a plurality of

Art Unit: 2626

languages, wherein the character codes associated with each language of the plurality of languages are arranged as respectively contiguous ranges of numbers (paragraph 0020);

selecting character codes from the plurality of character codes for association with respective rows of a plurality of rows of a table (figure 1);

storing the selected character codes (code point) and associated weights in the table with each row of the table storing a character code and associated weight (weight; figures 2 and 3), but does not specifically teach identifying character codes of the selected character codes for display on buttons of a jump bar of a contact manager; and, displaying the alphanumeric characters corresponding to the identified character codes on respective buttons of the jump bar.

Robertson teaches a method of identifying character codes of the selected character codes for display on buttons of a jump bar of a contact manager; and, displaying the alphanumeric characters corresponding to the identified character codes on respective buttons of the jump bar (paragraphs 0077-0083 with figure 10), to locate and share personal information with other users.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Flasz's method as described above, to conduct a search of contacts of the respective user and the search may be limited in scope to users that satisfy one or more particular search criteria, such as users that reside in a particular region or are affiliated with a particular group (paragraph 0012), as taught by Robertson.

Art Unit: 2626

Flasza in view of Robertson discloses operating a jump bar of a contact manager, but does not specifically teach wherein associating a weight includes determining a frequency with which an alphanumeric character is used in the language thereof and assigning the weight based at least on the determined frequency.

Babst discloses a method wherein associating a weight includes determining a frequency with which an alphanumeric character is used in the language (frequency) thereof and assigning the weight based at least on the determined frequency (high, low; column 9, lines 36-57), to speed up word prediction.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to modify Flasza in view of Robertson's method as described above, to thereby eliminate unnecessary, time consuming, and difficult inputting of many individual characters (abstract), as taught by Babst.

Regarding **claim 18**, Flasza discloses a method wherein the step of selecting character codes includes selecting character codes from the plurality of character codes (character code) based at least in part on the weights (weight) associated with the character codes (paragraph 0019-0022).

Regarding **claim 19**, Flasza discloses a method wherein the selected character codes have associated weights which are greater than the associated weights (weight) of other character codes (character code) of the plurality of character codes (paragraph 0019-0022).

Regarding **claim 20**, it is interpreted and rejected for similar reasons as set forth in claim 16. In addition, Flasza discloses a method wherein the step of identifying

Art Unit: 2626

character codes includes identifying character codes (character code) based at least in part on the weights (weight) associated with the character codes (paragraph 0019-0022).

8. **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babst in view of Robertson and in further view of Atkin et al. (PGPUB 2004/0181176), hereinafter referenced as Atkin.

Regarding **claim 7**, Babst in view of Robertson discloses a method of operating a jump bar of a contact manager, but does not specifically teach wherein the plurality of languages includes an Indic language.

Atkin discloses a method wherein the plurality of languages includes an Indic language (Indic; paragraph 0039), to make use of complex character sets.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to modify Babst in view of Robertson's method as described above, to allow a user to select the character set that the user wishes to make use of with application (paragraph 0038), as taught by Atkin.

9. **Claim 15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flaszka in view of Robertson and Babst and in further view of Atkin.

Art Unit: 2626

Regarding **claim 15**, Flasz in view of Robertson and Babst discloses a method of operating a jump bar of a contact manager, but does not specifically teach wherein the plurality of languages includes an Indic language.

Atkin discloses a method wherein the plurality of languages includes an Indic language (Indic; paragraph 0039), to make use of complex character sets.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time the invention was made to modify Flasz in view of Robertson and Babst's method as described above, to allow a user to select the character set that the user wishes to make use of with application (paragraph 0038), as taught by Atkin.

10. **Claim 21** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flasz in view of Robertson and Babst and in further view of Atkin.

Regarding **claim 21**, Flasz in view of Robertson and Babst discloses a method of operating a contact manager, but does not specifically teach a method wherein the character set includes the Unicode character set.

Atkin discloses a method wherein the character set includes the Unicode character set (Unicode; paragraph 0039), to understand languages which are written using Indic fonts.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art to modify Flasz in view of Robertson and Babst's method as described above, to provide a Unicode capable application without requiring modification of legacy operating systems (paragraphs 0006-0007), as taught by Atkin.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAKIEDA R. JACKSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 5:30am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jakieda R Jackson/
Examiner, Art Unit 2626
March 10, 2009

/David R Hudspeth/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626